safeguarding return on investment against possible under demand of power arising from variations in demand, generating companies can now sell power on the basis of a suitably structured two part tariff. The operations norms and optimal PLF (Plant Load Factor) have been prescribed by the Government.

The specific incentives for Licensees are:

(a) Licences of a longer duration of 30 years in the first instance and subsequent renewals of 20 years instead of 20 and 10 years respectively as it was before.

(b) Higher rate of return of 5% in place of the previous 2% above the RBI rate.

(c) Capitalisation of Interest during Construction (IDC) at actual cost (for expansion projects also) as against 1% ever RBI rate as it was before.

(d) Special appropriations to meet debt redemption obligations.

A High Powered Board has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to monitor and provide for faster clearance of Private Sector Power Projects.

Adverse effect of power shortage on the farmers of Bihar

3319. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that due to acute shortage of electricity in the State of Bihar, the irrigation network from tubewells has come to stand still which has adversely affected the farmers of the State who are facing the worst drought of the memory; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to make available sufficient electricity to Bihar to enable the farmers to irrigate their fields and save their crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) During the period April—November, 1992, the energy requirement in Bihar was 5415 million units against which the availability was 3355 million units which represents a shortage of 38%. At present, there are no statutory power cuts/restrictions imposed in Bihar. The power supply to various categories of consumers is under the distribution system of the State and is the prerogative of the State Govt./SEB. However, the average power supply to agricultural sector in Bihar during the month of November, 1992 was 5-6 hrs. per day.

(b) In order to mitigate the power shortage in the State of Bihar, it is envisaged to add 476.9 MW in the State Sector and 500 MW capacity in the Private Sector in Bihar during the 8th Plan. The State will also get its due share from the Central Sector Projects which are being set up in the Eastern Region. Various other measures being taken to increase the availability of power in Bihar include maximising generation from existing generating stations, implementation of Renovation and Modernisation Programme, Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses, effective load management and Energy conservation measures, assistance from neighbouring States and Systems.

Commissioning of Ramagundam Stage-II Power Project

3320. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ramagundam Stage-II project is still not ready for commissioning in near future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of foreign aid received for the project and the amount actually spent on it so far; and